



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

**SEVP Webinar Series: InFocus**  
April 21, 2016, 1 p.m. EDT

# Today's Presenters



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Management and Program Analyst

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**Moderator**

# Presentation Overview

1

**THE LATEST NEWS**

2

**NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW UP**

3

**DON'T FORGET**

4

**FACTS + FIGURES**

5

**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

# THE LATEST NEWS

# Updated STEM OPT Regulation

- **Overview**
  - Published final STEM OPT regulation on March 11, 2016
  - Amended regulation takes effect on May 20, 2016
- **What to know**
  - Lengthens STEM OPT extension from 17 to 24 months
  - Form I-983, “Training Plan for STEM OPT Students,” for students and employers
  - Transition plan
  - DSO reporting requirements
- **SEVP Special Report: STEM OPT Webinar**
  - Link to recording available on Study in the States

# STEM OPT Hub

The screenshot shows the official website of the Department of Homeland Security's "STUDY in the STATES" program, specifically the STEM OPT Hub. The page is titled "STEM OPT" and features a large image of a student in a lab coat and mask. Callout lines point to the following sections:

- Form I-983 video tutorial**: Points to a video player icon and the text "Watch the Form I-983, 'Training Plan for STEM OPT Students' Tutorial for a step-by-step guide to completing the Training Plan form."
- May 2016 regulation implementation overview**: Points to the main heading "STEM OPT" and the introductory text about the 24-month extension.
- Form I-983 information**: Points to the "TRANSITION PLAN" section, which includes a "Transition Plan Overview" and details about the May 10, 2016 deadline.
- Information for DSOs**: Points to the "TRAINING PLAN" section, which includes a "Form I-983 Overview" and details about the May 10, 2016 deadline.
- Transitioning to 24-month extension**: Points to the "TRANSITION PLAN" section.
- Information for students and employers**: Points to the "STUDENTS" and "EMPLOYERS" sections, which provide details about eligibility and reporting requirements.
- Additional resources**: Points to the "MORE RESOURCES" section, which includes frequently asked questions and eligible CIP codes.

The website footer includes a "QUESTIONS?" section with contact information: "For general and case-specific questions, call 703-603-3400 or email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov) and include STEM OPT in the subject line. Our offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays."

# Draft Guidance for Comment:

## *Secondary Postgraduate Year Programs*

- Open for public comment until Friday, May 6, 2016
  - Email comments to [SEVPFeedback@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVPFeedback@ice.dhs.gov)
  - Include title of guidance in subject line
- Overview
  - Discusses SEVP certification for secondary postgraduate year programs
  - Covers program and eligibility requirements
  - Released in draft form

# NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

# Form I-515A Termination

- **Notice to students — “Intent to Terminate”**
  - Sent to student, exchange visitor and /or their dependents
  - Failure to respond to the Form I-515A
  - Recipient has 14 days to take action
    - Failure to comply will result in SEVIS record termination
- **Additional information**
  - Form I-515A Noncompliance Termination Procedure PDF
    - Available at [ICE.gov/SEVP/Travel](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVP/Travel)

# SEVIS Enhancements

- **SEVIS Release 6.26 – May 2016**
  - Changes to accommodate STEM OPT regulation
  - Improved interfaces with CBP systems
- **SEVIS Release 6.27 – June 2016**
  - Form I-20 improvements
  - Ability to mass register continuing students
  - Alerts and student list improvements
  - New travel, visa and passport information page

## Around SEVP



**Remedial Action Plans  
for inaccurate student records**



**Field representative vacancies**



**School Certification Unit processing times**

# PDSO and DSO Updates

- **Goals**
  - Eliminated PDSO and DSO updates backlog in March 2016
  - 10 business day turnaround time for complete requests
- **What to know**
  - Submit complete petition requests
  - Submit PDSO and DSO updates alone in SEVIS
- **Resources**
  - Fact sheets, job aids and webinars
  - Study in the States and [ICE.gov/SEVP](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVP)

**DON'T FORGET ...**

# Best Practices

## *Student Travel*

- **Prepare**
  - Bring all necessary travel documents
  - Keep documents safe while traveling
- **Understand**
  - Port of entry processes
  - Form I-515A



# Reminder

## *Form I-17 Updates*

- **Remember**
  - Review the Form I-17 regularly
  - Submit updates in a timely manner
- **Know**
  - Your school's certification expiration date



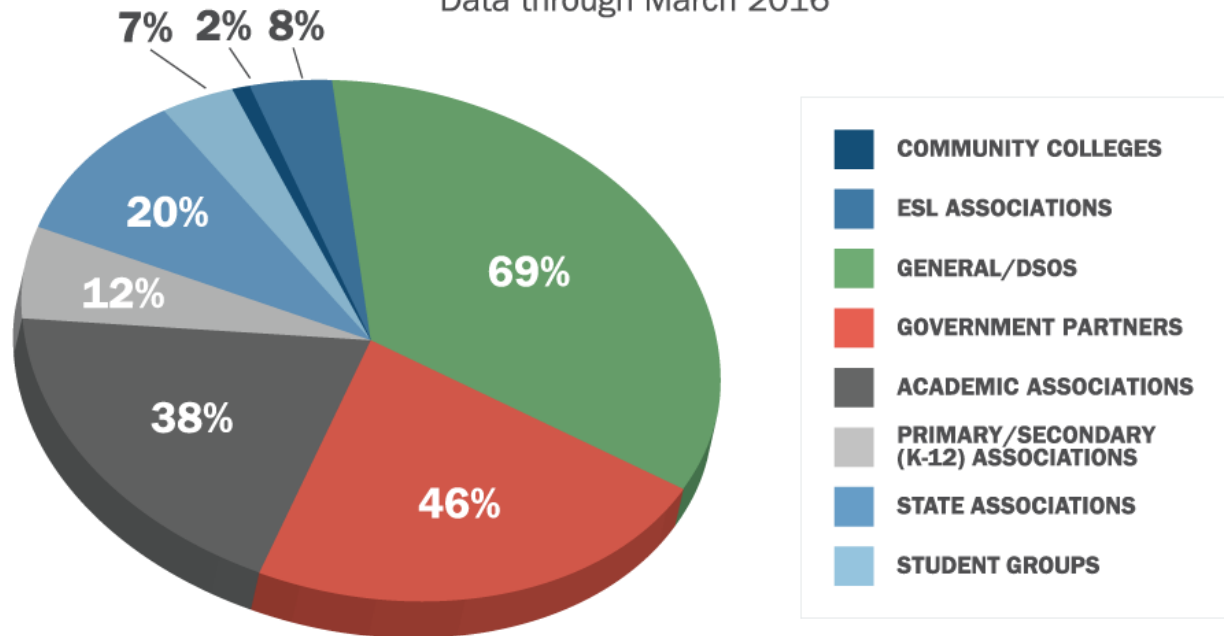
# FACTS + FIGURES

# Expanding Outreach

## Conferences

### 2015-16 Audience Breakdown

Data through March 2016



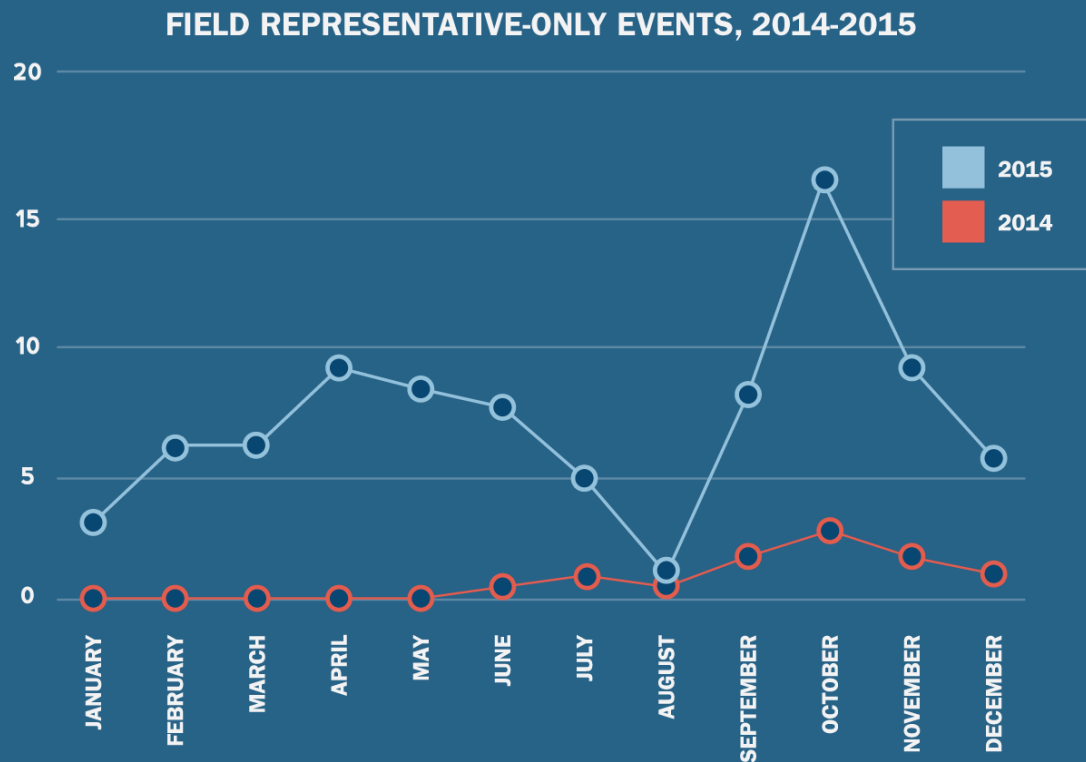
“

IN 2015, SEVP SET A NEW RECORD FOR  
EVENT ATTENDANCE IN A CALENDAR YEAR,  
**TAKING PART IN 173 EVENTS.**

”

# Expanding Outreach

## *SEVP Field Representatives*



**100+**  
Events Attended

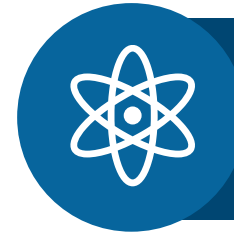
**14,000+**  
School Visits Conducted

*Statistics calculated since deployment\**

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

# SEVP Webinars

- **SEVP Webinar Series**
  - InFocus and Ask the Experts
  - Stakeholder Webinars page
- **SEVP Special Report**
- **SEVIS Webinar Series**
  - Pre- and post-release webinars
  - SEVIS Help Hub



**NEXT SEVIS WEBINAR:**  
**STEM OPT**

April 29, 2016, 1 – 2 p.m. EDT

# New on Study in the States



# Engage with SEVP

## *Stay Connected*



### KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog)

#### **Publications:**

SEVP Spotlight

SEVP Conference Bulletin



### ENGAGE THROUGH CONFERENCES

Email [SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov)

with information about  
your upcoming event



@StudyinStates



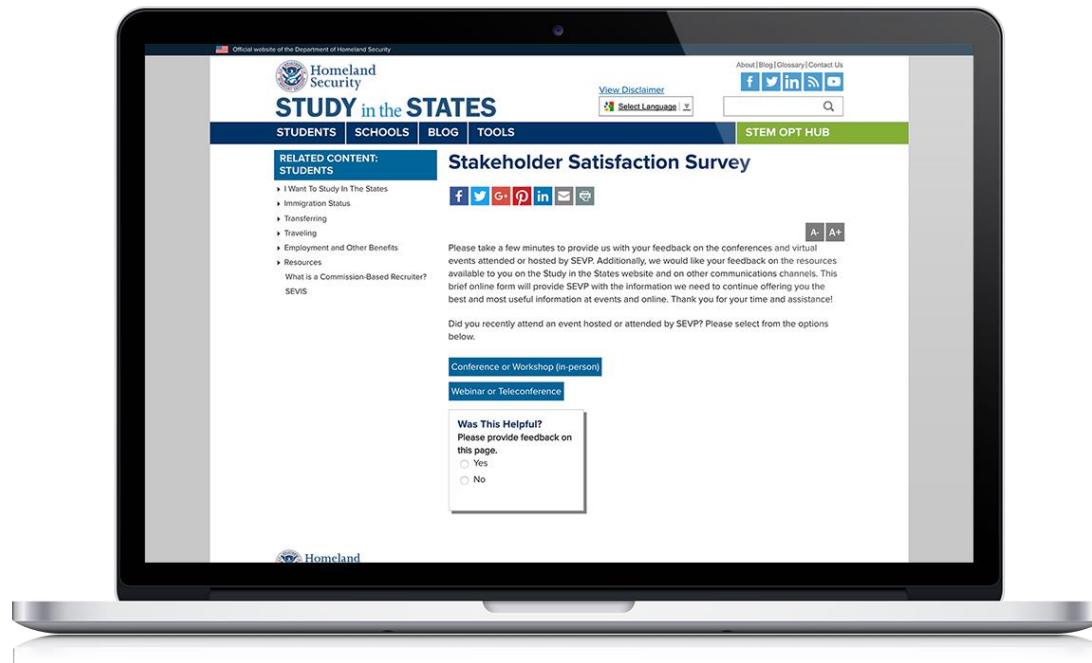
Facebook.com/StudyintheStates



Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program

# SEVP Values Your Feedback

- Provide feedback on this conference presentation
- Comments reviewed throughout the year



[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey](http://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey)

# SEVP Response Center



## PHONE

703-603-3400

800-892-4829



## EMAIL

**Case-Specific Questions:**

SEVP@ice.dhs.gov

**Technical Issues**

SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov

**Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays**

**Closed Wednesdays from 12:50 to 1:20 p.m.**

**for system maintenance and testing**

Additional contact information at

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us)